The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-32. (Canceled).

33. (New) A method of forming a plurality of bags with items filled therein and transferring the bags to an external device, comprising steps of:

forming bags from a film while filling the bags with items;

severing each of the bags;

ejecting the severed bags one by one onto a first transfer unit;

carrying the bags diagonally downward with the first transfer unit, a speed at which the first transfer unit carries the bags being controlled to be faster when an ejection interval at which the first transfer unit receives the severed bags becomes shorter;

ejecting the bags from the first transfer unit onto a second transfer unit;

carrying the bags with the second transfer unit in a direction not parallel to the direction in which the first transfer unit carries the bags; and

ejecting the bags from the second transfer unit onto the external device, ejection intervals at which the second transfer unit ejects the bags onto the external device being substantially even.

34. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, wherein

during the ejection of the bags from the first transfer unit to the second transfer unit, a posture of the bags is controlled.

35. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, wherein

the first transfer unit is a belt.

36. (New) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein

the belt is inclined so that the bags move diagonally downward.

37. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, wherein

in the carrying of the bags by the first transfer unit, the speed of the first transfer unit is controlled according to control settings stored in a memory storage unit.

38. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, wherein

in the ejection of the bags from the first transfer unit, an ejection interval of the first transfer unit is controlled according to control settings stored in a memory storage unit.

39. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, wherein

the forming of the bags includes

forming the film into a tubular shape,

transferring the tubular-shaped film downward,

vertically sealing an overlapped part of the tubular-shaped film,

transversely sealing the tubular-shaped film to form the bags, and

severing and ejecting each of the bags.

40. (New) The method as defined in claim 39, wherein

the sealing is by heat-sealing.

41. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, wherein

in the ejection of the bags onto the first transfer unit, the severed bags are dropped onto the first transfer unit and the bags do not contact the first transfer unit until after the bags are severed.

42. (New) The method as defined in claim 33, wherein

in the ejecting of the bags from the first transfer unit, a speed at which the bags are ejected from the first transfer unit onto the second transfer unit is no faster than a speed at which the bags are ejected onto the first transfer unit.

43. (New) A method of forming a plurality of bags with items filled therein and transferring the bags to an external device, comprising steps of:

forming bags from a film while filling the bags with items;

severing each of the bags;

ejecting the severed bags one by one onto a first transfer unit, the first transfer unit including a pair of belts;

carrying the bags downward with the first transfer unit while sandwiching the bags with the pair of belts, a speed at which the first transfer unit carries the bags being controlled to be faster when an ejection interval at which the first transfer unit receives the severed bags becomes shorter;

ejecting the bags from the first transfer unit onto a second transfer unit;

carrying the bags with the second transfer unit in a direction not parallel to the direction in which the first transfer unit carries the bags; and

ejecting the bags from the second transfer unit onto the external device, ejection intervals at which the second transfer unit ejects the bags onto the external device being substantially even.

45. (New) The method as defined in claim 43 wherein

during the ejection of the bags from the first transfer unit onto the second transfer unit, a posture of the bags is controlled.

46. (New) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein

in the carrying of the bags by the first transfer unit, the speed of the first transfer unit is controlled according to control settings stored in a memory storage unit.

47. (New) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein

in the ejection of the bags by the first transfer unit, an ejection interval of the first transfer unit is controlled according to control settings stored in a memory storage unit.

48. (New) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein

the forming of the bags includes

forming the film into a tubular shape,

transferring the tubular-shaped film downward,

vertically sealing an overlapped part of the tubular-shaped film,

transversely sealing the tubular-shaped packaging material to form the bags, and

severing and ejecting each of the bags.

49. (New) The method as defined in claim 48, wherein

the sealing is by heat-sealing.

50. (New) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein

in the ejection of the bags onto the first transfer unit, the severed bags are dropped onto the first transfer unit and the bags do not contact the first transfer unit until after the bags are severed.

51. (New) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein

in the ejecting of the bags from the first transfer unit, a speed at which the bags are ejected from the first transfer unit onto the second transfer unit is no faster than a speed at which the bags are ejected onto the first transfer unit.

52. (New) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein

in the carrying of the bags by the first transfer unit, a part of a transfer passage formed between the pair of belts of the first transfer unit is inclined so that a direction in which the bags are transferred changes as the bags move through the transfer passage.

53. (New) The method as defined in claim 43, wherein

a distance between the pair of belts is adjustable according to a type of the bags.